

We inspected the trap the following morning but found nothing new, although several more large *L. hirtaria* Clerck were very welcome, and finally we again noted *cinctaria* sitting on the posts. Leaving Struan at 10.30, we were home for supper.

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BEGINNER'S LUCK! *COSCINIA CRIBRARIA* L. SSP. *ARENARIA* LEMPKE (LEP.: ARCTIIDAE) IN KENT. — On the 6th July, 1977, I found in the Rothamsted light trap which I run in my garden a moth which I did not immediately recognise. This is not an unusual occurrence, as I have only extended my interests to moths in the last two years or so. However, after consulting South, I concluded that I had caught something pretty unusual. As far as I could judge, it was a fresh male *C. cribraria*, and since it was very lightly marked I concluded that it might be ssp. *arenaria* Lempke, which "has been taken occasionally at Dungeness, no doubt immigrants from the Belgian coast sand dunes" (South, 1961 edition).

At this point I went to work feeling very pleased with myself! My doubts that I had really got *C. cribraria* increased as the day wore on and by the time I got home again, I was sure I must be wrong. A second examination, however, confirmed my opinion. Then I consulted Mr. Chalmers-Hunt's *Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, Vol. II, and discovered that, far from occasionally being taken at Dungeness, only one had ever been taken there—on 21st July, 1934—and that only four altogether had ever been taken in Kent, the other three occurring at Sandwich, the latest in 1937. This renewed my doubts! I decided that it would be foolhardy to rush into print and I would wait for a second opinion. This I have now received and I am pleased to record that Mr. R. F. Bretherton confirmed that it is a male *Coscinia cribraria* L. ssp. *arenaria* Lempke. (Taken 5th July, 1977 at Minster, Sheppey.) In the hope of taking further specimens of the moth, I ran an m.v. lamp, in addition to the Rothamsted trap, over the following week or so, but without any success.

It would seem most likely that it was a migrant from the Belgian coast, as there are certainly no sand dunes in this area, although it would have received little or no wind assistance for its fairly long trip, as conditions had been calm for some days. Particularly surprising is the freshness of the specimen. There is little or no loss of scales. (Perhaps it came by ferry from Flushing to Sheerness!) The black markings on it are very scarce and it lacks completely the streaks which normally run the length of the fore-wings.

My thanks to Mr. R. F. Bretherton for confirming the identification. I hope to be able to report more specimens next year! — GEOFFREY N. BURTON, "Mar-y-Mar", Minster Drive, Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent, ME12 2NG.